Can a Believer Remain Where Sin Is Tolerated?

Are you in a church that tolerates worldly people, brothers who live in sin and disobedience?

 Answer: No — Explanation: A born-again Christian cannot have fellowship in a congregation that tolerates sin, compromise, and disobedience to God's Word. Scripture is clear:

• “Do not be deceived: Bad company ruins good morals.” (1 Corinthians 15:33)

• “Purge the evil person from among you.” (1 Corinthians 5:13)

A vibrant assembly of born-again believers will not tolerate sin but will confront it with love and firmness, following the principles of spiritual discipline (Matthew 18:15-17).

Being born again produces a hatred for sin and a sincere desire for holiness. Such a Christian will not be able to have real fellowship in a place where sin is ignored or accepted, because the Holy Spirit within him will rebuke him and call him to separation.

If you find yourself in a living body where sin is not tolerated but is confronted in a spirit of gentleness and truth, as Scripture says in 1 Corinthians 5, this is a sign that the new birth may be genuine.

Paul clearly states: “For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Purge the evil person from among you.” (1 Corinthians 5:12-13) “A little leaven leavens the whole lump. Cleanse out the old leaven.” (1 Corinthians 5:6-7)

This shows that a spiritually healthy congregation will not tolerate sin in its midst but will seek purity, holiness, and mutual edification. Scripture warns seriously: “See to it that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal.” (Hebrews 12:16)

This verse emphasizes how serious spiritual compromise is and how easily what is holy can be lost when sin is tolerated or ignored. A living assembly will watch over its members so that none of them live according to the flesh, but are urged toward repentance, holiness, and maturity in Christ.

Only such an environment—clean, alive, and subject to the Word—can be the place where an authentic new birth takes place. God places the members born of Him in a living Body, which lives in obedience to His commands and where each part contributes to the building up of the others in holiness and truth.

 Answer: Yes (wrong) — Explanation: To remain in a gathering that tolerates sin and disobedience means:

• Accepting compromise and turning a blind eye to living in sin.

• Putting personal comfort or social connections above the purity of the Body of Christ.

• Associating with those who practice sin, which is condemned by God. (Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? 2 Cor. 6:14; God says to the wicked: "If you see a thief, you join him, and you associate with adulterers. Psalm 50:16-18) God does not place the members born of His Spirit in a place where sin is tolerated and where there is no fear of God. Therefore, such a choice shows that no genuine new birth has taken place. God places His members in the Body of Christ, where holiness and obedience reign, where Christ is recognized and honored as Head.

Where there is no obedience to His commands, there is no life, but spiritual death—a dead body in which Christ is not present. Just as the body cannot live without the head, so a congregation that does not submit to Christ cannot be a place where the Holy Spirit works. Scripture says, “Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me” (John 14:21)—and where there is no true love for Christ, there is no presence of Him.

This post is an excerpt from the booklet “Are You Truly Born Again? – Biblical Questionnaire”, which you can read in full, free of charge. More studies and resources for spiritual awakening are available at https://www.unmodifiedword.com.